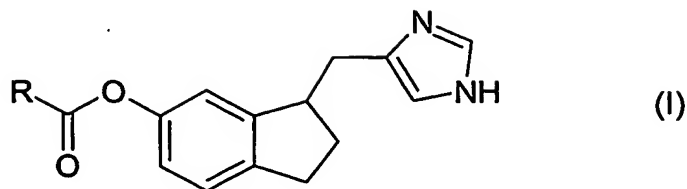


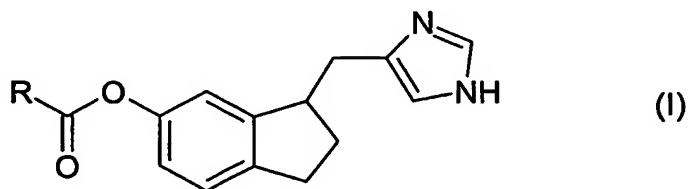
CLAIMS

1. A compound of general formula I,



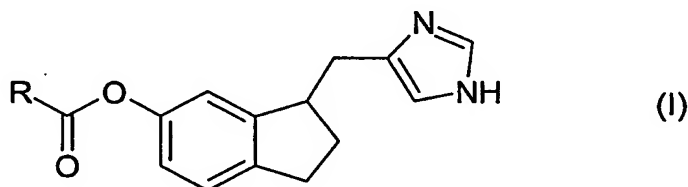
or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or hydrates thereof, wherein R represents unsubstituted or substituted lower alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted heteroaryl, unsubstituted or substituted lower alkylamino or a saturated five or six membered heterocyclic group containing one or two nitrogen atoms.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R represents unsubstituted or substituted lower alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl.
3. A compound according to claim 2, wherein R represents unsubstituted or substituted lower alkyl.
4. A compound according to claim 3, said compound being
4-[6-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxy)indan-1-ylmethyl]-1*H*-imidazol-1-ium chloride
5. A compound according to claim 3, said compound being
4-(6-acetoxyindan-1-ylmethyl)-1*H*-imidazol-1-ium chloride
6. A compound according to claim 3, said compound being
4-(6-butyryloxyindan-1-ylmethyl)-1*H*-imidazol-1-ium chloride
7. Use of a compound of formula I,



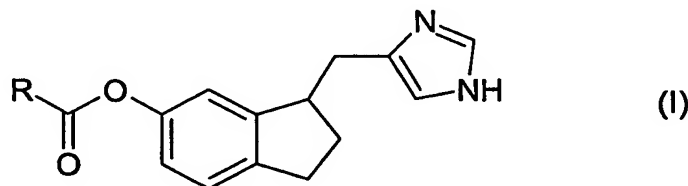
or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or hydrates thereof, wherein R is as defined in claim 1, for the manufacture of a medicament to be used in the treatment of hypertension, glaucoma, migraine, diarrhea, ischemia, addiction to chemical substances, hypotension, shock, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, micturition disorders, withdrawal syndromes, congestive heart failure, anxiety or different neurological, musculoskeletal, psychiatric or cognition disorders or as a sedative or an analgesic agent, nasal decongestant or as an adjunct to anaesthesia.

8. A use according to claim 7, wherein the compound is
4-[6-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxy)indan-1-ylmethyl]-1*H*-imidazol-1-ium chloride.
9. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises as an active agent a compound of formula I,



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or hydrates thereof, wherein R is as defined in claim 1, and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

10. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein the compound is
4-[6-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxy)indan-1-ylmethyl]-1*H*-imidazol-1-ium chloride.
11. A method for the treatment of diseases or conditions, wherein α_2 agonists are indicated to be useful, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula I,



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or hydrates thereof, wherein R is as defined in claim 1.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the compound is

4-[6-(2,2-dimethylpropanoyloxy)indan-1-ylmethyl]-1*H*-imidazol-1-ium chloride.